

March 17, 2005

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Majority Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blunt:

As the national and state representatives of U.S. pork producers, we are writing to convey our strong support for prompt congressional consideration and passage of the Free Trade Agreement with Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (CAFTA-DR).

The CAFTA-DR, if implemented, will establish large tariff rate quotas with zero in-quota duty rates on U.S. pork that will bring immediate benefits to our members. Once the agreement is fully phased-in, there will be no tariffs or quotas restricting U.S. pork exports to these six countries. A recent economic analysis conducted by Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes shows that, as a direct result of CAFTA-DR, U.S. pork exports to the region will grow by 20,000 tons on an annual basis. U.S. live hog prices will increase by thirty-six cents per hog, having a significant impact on the bottom line of U.S. producers.

Trade agreements have been very good for our producers. U.S. exports of pork and pork products have increased by more than 337% in volume terms and more than 292% in value terms since the implementation of the NAFTA in 1994 and the Uruguay Round Agreement in 1995. Total exports increased every year in this period and exceeded 1,000,000 metric tons and \$2.2 billion in 2004. In addition, recent trade deals with China, Taiwan, Russia, and Australia are generating significant new exports of U.S. pork. CAFTA-DR will create even more new opportunity for our producers.

In short, the CAFTA-DR is a great deal for U.S. pork producers. Your support for CAFTA-DR will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

National Pork Producers Council

Arizona Pork Council
Arkansas Pork Producers Association
California Pork Producers Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Georgia Pork Producers Association
Hawaii Pork Industry Association
Idaho Pork Producers Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association

Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Louisiana Pork Producers Association
Maine Pork Producers
Maryland Pork Producers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Pork Producers
Missouri Pork Association
Montana Pork Producers Council
Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Inc.
Nevada Pork Producers Association
New Hampshire Pork Producers Council
New York Pork Producers Cooperative, Inc.
North Carolina Pork Council, Inc.
North Dakota Pork Producers Council
Ohio Pork Producers Council
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oregon Pork Producers Association
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council
South Carolina Pork Board
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Utah Pork Producers Association
Virginia Pork Industry Association
Washington Pork Producers
Wisconsin Pork Association
Wyoming Pork Producers